

Message Text

SECRET

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12

ACTION EA-14

INFO OCT-01 ADP-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-09 H-02 INR-09 L-03

NSAE-00 NSC-10 PA-03 RSC-01 PRS-01 SS-14 USIA-12

DPW-01 AID-20 IO-12 RSR-01 /113 W
----- 047837

R 281101 Z MAR 73

FM AMEMBASSY SAIGON

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 9292

INFO AMEMBASSY BANGKOK

AMCONSUL BIEN HOA

AMCONSUL CAN THO

AMCONSUL DANANG

USDEL FRANCE

AMCONSUL NHA TRANG

IUMJNO/ AMEMBASSY PHNOM PENH 4058

AMEMBASSY VIENTIANE

CINCPAC

S E C R E T SAIGON 5104

E. O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PINT VS

SUBJECT: SENATOR NGUYEN VAN NGAI ON (A) SECRET GVN/ PRG
NEGOTIATIONS

(B) DECREE LAW 060 AND NATIONALIST PARTIES (C) BUDDHIST PARTY

CINCPAC FOR POLAD

1. SENATOR NGUYEN VAN NGAI, IN A COVERSATION WITH EMBOFFS
MAR 28, MADE THE FOLLOWING COMMENTS:

SECRET GVN/ PRG NETOTIATIONS

2. THE GVN REGARDS THE PARIS VENUE OF THE CURRENT GVN/ PRG
TALKS AS A PUBLIC FORUM UNSUITABLE FOR EFFECTIVE NEGOTIATIONS.
THE GVN, HE SAID, WISHES TO HOLD TALKS WITH THE PRG " AT A
SECRET LOCATION, AT A SECRET TIME, AND WITH SECRET PERSONNEL".
NGAI MENTIONED SAIGON, DALAT OR LOC NINH AS POSSIBLE LOCATIONS
OF THESE TALKS AND, WITH HIS USUAL LACK OF DIFFIDENCE, STATED
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THAT HE HIMSELF WAS A LEADING CANDIDATE TO CONDUCT THE SECRET NEGOTIATIONS. HE IMPLIED THAT SOME CONCRETE PROPOSALS HAD ALREADY BEEN COMMUNICATED SECRETLY TO THE OTHER SIDE AND STRESSED THAT THE ATTITUDE OF THE GVN WAS THAT " EVERYTHING IS NEGOTIABLE".

DECREE LAW 060

3. NGAI APPEARED PRIMARILY INTERESTED IN THIS CONVERSATION IN MAKING ASSURANCES THAT THE DEMOCRACY PARTY WOULD NOT EMERGE AS THE SOLE REPRESENTATIVE OF THE NON- COMMUNIST CAUSE IN SOUTH VIET- NAM. HE NOTED THAT ALTHOUGH THE DEMOCRACY PARTY IS THE ONLY PARTY TO DATE TO ATTAIN LEGAL STATUS, THE FREEDOM PARTY MARCH 23 HAD RECEIVED ITS PERMIT TO ORGANIZE AND THE SOCIAL- DEMOCRATIC ALLIANCE HAD ALREADY REQUESTED A PERMIT TO ORGANIZE. NGAI SAID THAT, ALTHOUGH THERE WERE SOME PERSONS IN THE PRESIDENCY WHO ADVOCATED THAT THE DP MONOPOLIZE THE NON- COMMUNIST POLITICAL SCENE, HE HAD PERSISTENTLY- AND IN THE END SUCCESSFULLY- SOUGHT TO PERSUADE THIEU THAT THERE MUST BE ALTERNATIVE NON- COMMUNIST PARTIES IN ORDER " TO CUT THE GROUND OUT FROM UNDER THE FEET OF THE COMMUNISTS". NGAI PREDICTED THAT THE FREEDOM PARTY AND THE SDA HAD A REASONABLE CHANCE TO QUALIFY UNDER DL 060, PERHAPS EVEN IN TIME TO PROVIDE CANDIDATE LISTS IN JUNE FOR THE SENATE ELECTION SCHEDULED FOR AUGUST.

BUDDHIST PARTY

4. NGAI SAID THAT THERE WAS ALSO A POSSIBILITY THAT A BUDDHIST POLITICAL PARTY MIGHT EMERGE BASED ON AN ALLIANCE BETWEEN SOME AN QUANG AND QUOC TU LEADERS. HE CITED THICH THIEN MINH AND SENATOR TRAN QUANG THUAN WITHIN THE AN QUANG GROUP AND HIMSELF AND THICH TAM CHAU IN THE QUOC TU FACTION AS THE CENTRAL FIGURES WORKING FOR SUCH AN ALL- BUDDHIST PARTY. NGAI' S COMMENTS ABOUT THE LIKELIHOOD THAT THE FREEDOM PARTY AND THE SDA WOULD BE ABLE TO ACHIEVE LEGAL STATUS CONTRADICT THE FLAT STATEMENT THAT HE MADE TO AN EMBASSY OFFICER ONE MONTH AGO THAT HE BELIEVED NO PARTY OTHER THAN THE DEMOCRACY PARTY WOULD QUALIFY. HIS OPTIMISM REGARDING THE POSSIBILITY OF THE EMERGENCE OF A BUDDHIST POLITICAL PARTY BASED ON AN AN- QUANG- QUOC TU ALLIANCE DOES NOT SEEM REALISTIC.

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*** Current Classification *** SECRET

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To: BANGKOK
BIEN HOA
CAN THO
DANANG
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